

Nevada EQIP Conservation Incentive Contract Fact Sheet

Take the Next Step on Your Conservation Path



What is EQIP?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is one of USDA's most popular conservation programs. Through EQIP, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural and forestry producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

NRCS provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement conservation practices to NRCS standards and specifications. Using these practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving agricultural operations.

To get started, NRCS first works one-on-one with you to develop a conservation plan that meets your goals and vision for the land. This becomes a roadmap for which conservation practices best meet your needs. Financial assistance covers part of the costs from implementing conservation practices.

What are EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts?

The 2018 Farm Bill introduced EQIP incentive contracts to expand resource benefits for producers through incentive conservation practices such as cover crops, transition to resource conserving crop rotations, and precision agriculture technologies along with a similarly broad suite of incentive practices for ranchers and nonindustrial private forest operators. EQIP incentive contracts can be a stepping stone for producers between EQIP classic and Conservation Stewardship Program contracts.



What are the Benefits?

Participant Benefits:

- Access to enhancements previously only available through CSP.
- Chance to implement elements of CSP on a smaller scale, which may inform future interest in applying for CSP on their entire operation.
- A new opportunity for targeted conservation on their land.

NRCS Benefits:

- Another tool to help get conservation on the ground.
- Opportunity for targeted conservation: *What High Priority Areas, Priority Resource Concerns, land uses, crop types, livestock types, etc. aren't currently well represented in Nevada?*

CIC Purpose

To incentivize additional conservation around locally-established resource priorities:

- States identify High Priority Area(s) (HPA)
- States identify Priority Resource Concern(s) (PRC) associated with HPA
- States identify relevant land uses and the set of incentive practices that will address the PRC(s) in the HPA(s).

Major Features of the Contracts

EQIP CIC Payment Limitation:

- \$200K Payment Limitation, separate from EQIP 'Classic'

EQIP CIC Contract Limitation:

- Person or legal entity = \$200K Contract Limit

- Joint Operations (bus type 2 or 3) = \$400K Contract Limit

Historically Underserved

- In a contract, all items will be designated as "HU," but only practices (not enhancements) will receive a higher rate.
- Advanced payment option will only be available for practices (not enhancements).

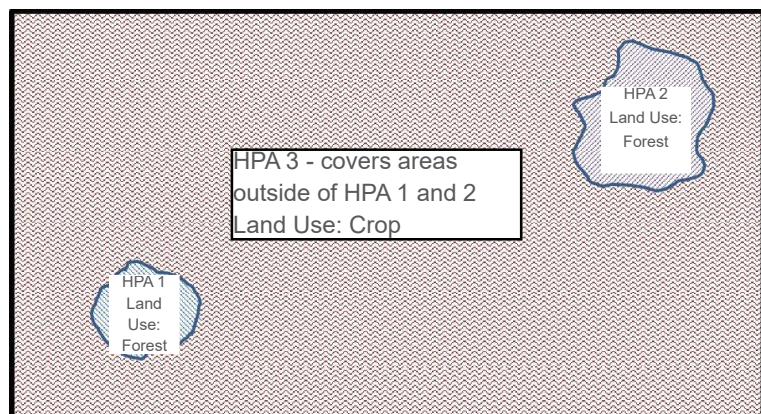
What is the State Technical Advisory Committee's Role?

States, in consultation with the State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), will identify areas of high priority. *This is the STAC's opportunity to influence the way the CICs are rolled out through their priorities and resource concern recommendations.*

High Priority Areas (max 3 areas):

- Represent areas of significant concern
- Must encompass every region within the state
- May encompass an entire state or overlap with other high priority areas
- Set of High Priority Areas must cover the whole state

States will submit high priority area geospatial boundaries to headquarters.



High Priority Area Example

STAC Input: CIC Recommendation to the State Conservationist

1. Select High Priority Areas (no more than 3, for FY21 the entire state can be the HPA due to the time constraint).

2. Select LAND USES for each priority area:

- Crop
- Forest
- Range
- Pasture
- Farmstead
- Associated Ag Land

3. Select RESOURCE CONCERN CATEGORIES for each selected land use (no more than 3):

- Air Quality emissions
- Aquatic Habitat
- Concentrated Erosion
- Degraded Plant Condition
- Field Pesticide Loss
- Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss
- Fire Management
- Inefficient Energy Use
- Livestock Production Limitation
- Pest Pressure
- Salt Losses to Water
- Soil Quality Limitations
- Source Water Depletion
- Storage and Handling of Pollutants
- Terrestrial Habitat
- Weather Resilience
- Wind and Water Erosion

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